

SENATOR DAWN BUCKINGHAM VIDEO

Eminent Domain BILLS

HELLO FRIENDS THIS IS DR. DAWN BUCKINGHAM, YOUR STATE SENATOR FOR DISTRICT 24.

AS A DEFENDER OF RURAL TEXAS AND THE TEXAS WAY OF LIFE, I SHARE THE BELIEF OF SO MANY TEXANS THAT OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ARE SACRED.

PROTECTING THESE RIGHTS IS ONE OF MY TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THAT IS WHY I HAVE CO-AUTHORED FOUR BILLS AIMED AT REFORMING OUR EMINENT DOMAIN LAWS TO PROVIDE STRONGER PROTECTIONS FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.

THESE BILLS ARE:

- SENATE BILL 552, WHICH ENSURES LANDOWNERS FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR EXISTING PROPERTY RIGHTS BY INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION CONDEMNING ENTITIES ARE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE TO LANDOWNERS ON SURVEY PERMISSION FORMS.
- SENATE BILL 553, WHICH HELPS ENSURE CONDEMNING ENTITIES FAIRLY COMPENSATE LANDOWNERS BY REQUIRING A SEPARATE OFFER FOR ANY LAND NOT SUBJECT TO EMINENT DOMAIN.
- SENATE BILL 554, WHICH STRENGTHENS EXISTING "LANDOWNER'S BILL OF RIGHTS" LAWS BY GIVING LANDOWNERS THE RIGHT TO REPURCHASE PROPERTY SEIZED THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN IF A CONDEMNING ENTITY CANNOT DEMONSTRATE ACTIVE PROGRESS WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME.
- AND SENATE BILL 555, WHICH ENSURES THAT PROPERTY OWNERS ARE NOT FORCED TO PAY ROLLBACK TAXES ON CONDEMNED LAND THEY WERE FORCED TO SELL BY CLARIFYING ANY ADDITIONAL TAXES RESULTING FROM LAND DIVERTED TO A NONAGRICULTURAL USE AS A RESULT OF EMINENT DOMAIN ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONDEMNING ENTITY -- NOT THE LANDOWNER.

THESE FOUR BILLS ALREADY HAVE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT IN THE TEXAS SENATE, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MY COLLEAGUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE TO MAKE SURE THESE IMPORTANT REFORMS REACH THE GOVERNOR'S DESK AND ARE SIGNED INTO LAW.

I AM BLESSED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPRESENT DISTRICT 24 IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY - AND THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS.